East from the white mountains, others to the West or to any other quarter. Whosoever, 0 Gargi, without knowing that *A ksJiara* (the imperishable) offers oblations in this world, sacrifices, and performs penance for a thousand years, his work will have an end. Whosoever, 0 Gargi, without knowing this *AksJiaya* departs this world, he is miserable (like a slave). But he, 0 Gargi, who departs this world, knowing this *Akshaya,* he is a Brahmana. That Brahman, 0 Gargi, is unseen, but seeing ; unheard, but hearing ; unperceived, but perceiving ; unknown, but knowing. There is nothing that sees but it, nothing that hears, but it, nothing that perceives but it, nothing that knows but it. In that Akshara then, 0 Gargi, the ether is woven, like warp and woof."

Another Rishi, Sandilya, in the Chandogya XJpanishady visualises the Supreme Being as—

" The Intelligent whose body is spirit, whose form is light, whose thoughts are true, whose nature is like ether (Omnipresent and Invisible), from whom all works, all desires, all sweet odours and tastes proceed ; He who embraces all this, who never speaks and is never surprised."

Yet another Rishi in the same *UpanisJiad* identifies ether with Brahman Himself on account of its invisibility, intangibility and all-diffusiveness and says :

(t And the ether which is around us is the same as the ether which ^ is within us, that is the ether within the

heart. That ether in the heart (as Brahman) is Omnipresent and Unchanging."

Let us see what modem science has to say about *ether*. It says it is subtler than *force,* surrounds every particle of matter, penetrates every body, fills all space and pulsates with life. *But we cannot see- it.* The hardest iron is not impervious to it. The most complete atmospheric vacuum,. even the desert voids that reign between star and star, are full of it and the absence of common matter only serves to transmit the better the etherial waves. A ray of lighf passing from the sun to the earth is a column of ether in vibration. At every point, ether exerts force of enormous intensity. In comparison with the bulk of ether, ordinary